

AMENDMENT

Applicants hereby submit the following claim list, showing the claims as amended:

1. (currently amended) A method for automatically managing energy cost using metering data and pricing data, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving metering data from a utility meter, wherein the metering data is

electronically transmitted from the utility meter;

receiving pricing data electronically over a network, wherein the pricing data is

associated with a plurality of sources of power;

forecasting a forecast load based on the received metering data from the utility

meter, wherein said forecasting includes the steps of creating a

current load¹ shape from said metering data, and comparing the

current load shape to a load² shape from a prior time period based
on historical data;

determining an optimal consumption decision based on the received pricing data

and the forecast load, wherein the consumption decision selects

one of the plurality of sources of power to thereby reduce utility


costs, and wherein said optimal consumption decision is calculated

using an optimal cost curve derived from an optimization

algorithm applied to the pricing data and the forecast load;

claim 10 determining a price baseline for a combination of one or more of the sources of
power, wherein the price baseline is determined by price point data¹
for the one or more sources of power, the forecast load and a²
percentage³ of the forecast load which will be met by each of the
one or more sources of power; and

delivering the optimal consumption decision to the customer via the network.

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2. (canceled).
 3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the utility meter comprises an electric meter.
 4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the utility meter comprises a gas meter.
 5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the utility meter comprises a water meter.
 6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the metering data is electronically transmitted from the utility meter via a telephone line.
 7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pricing data includes grid price point data, distributed generation price point data, demand-side management price point data and alternative fuel price point data.
 8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.
 9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a price baseline for at least one of the plurality of the sources of power, as a function of the forecast load and of price point data for the at least one of the plurality of sources of power.
 10. (canceled).
 11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the forecasting step further comprises receiving weather data and forecasting a forecast load based on the received metering data from the utility meter and the weather data.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step further comprises receiving financial market data and determining an optimal consumption decision based on the received pricing data, the forecast load and the financial market data.
13. (original) The method of claim 1 [10], wherein the additional forecasting data is received via the Internet.
14. (original) The method of claim 1 [10], wherein the optimal consumption decision is further based, in part, on the additional forecasting data.
15. (canceled).
16. (canceled).
17. (canceled).
18. (original) The method of claim 1, further including allowing the customer to choose to receive power from one or more of the plurality of sources of power.
19. (original) The method of claim 1, further including electronically delivering a bill for power from one or more utilities to the customer.
20. (original) The method of claim 19, further including allowing the customer to pay the bill electronically.
21. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further including automatically implementing the optimal consumption decision, wherein the automatically implementing includes automatically providing power from at least one of the plurality of sources of power to the customer based upon the optimal consumption decision.

22. (canceled).

23. (canceled).

24. (canceled).

25. (canceled).

26. (canceled).

27. (canceled).

28. (canceled).

29. (canceled).

30. (canceled).

31. (canceled).

32. (canceled).

33. (canceled).

34. (canceled).